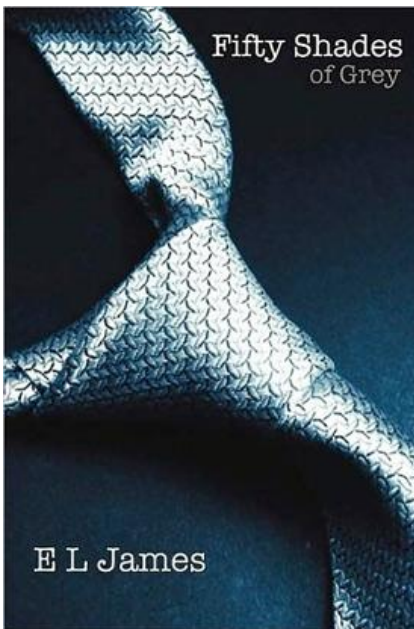


# In Bookstores

## “Fifty Shades of Grey”



By Denise Willhite



They say the summer of 2012 is the summer of lust and who's to disagree with films like "Magic Mike" playing in theaters and the "Fifty Shades Trilogy" available in print and as eBooks.

I first heard of "Fifty Shades of Grey" while driving to work one morning. My favorite local radio show couldn't stop talking about the best seller and how all the women around the world dropped what they were doing and began reading. So, I went home that night and downloaded the book to my Nook. Two days later I was finished.

For those interested in reading the series' first book "Fifty Shades of Grey," by British author E.L. James, have an open mind. If you're looking for another "Twilight" series then turn around and head back to the Young Adult section. If you choose to continue, be warned. You will either love it or hate it. The book delves into a world of BDSM (I'll let you look that up) and how a young woman falls for a slightly messed-up-in-the-head and controlling wealthy man.

You don't have to ascribe to BDSM to enjoy the descriptively written book, but it's intense. You may wonder about those who conduct this lifestyle. The book begins with Anastasia "Ana" Steele, a college literature student, heading to Seattle to interview Christian Grey, a successful and wealthy entrepreneur. She takes the place of her roommate Katherine "Kate" Kavanagh who falls sick and is unable to do the interview, which she has planned for months. After stumbling (literally) into Grey's office, Ana finds

herself face to face with the handsome billionaire. Though intimidated, she is instantly attracted to him. After an awkward interview, Ana quickly leaves — glad to never see or speak to Christian again.

Much to her surprise, he shows up at the hardware store where she works. Ana informs Christian that Kate needs a photo for her article and manages to get his number. Later that evening, Ana sets up a photo shoot with her friend and photographer Jose Rodriguez (who has a crush on Ana) for the next day at Christian's hotel. At the shoot, Christian asks Ana out for coffee. They meet up, and Ana is intrigued when she learns Christian isn't the "boyfriend" type. He shows interest in her, but she believes she's not his type and dismisses the idea of a relationship.

A few nights later Ana drunk-dials Christian, who then picks her up. He shows up as Jose attempts to push himself on Ana and whisks her away to his hotel. The next morning Christian tells Ana he would like a more intimate relationship but under circumstances that involve a contract.

Soon after the contract discussions, Ana opens up to Christian. The information immediately changes his game plan.

As for the contract, it is one of dominance and submission, the relationship Christian knows. The contract describes what he expects of Ana (i.e. sleep routine, eating habits, workouts and even personal hygiene) and that their relationship will be sexually and not romantically based. The contract also discusses what Ana believes as hard and soft limits. You will have to read the book if you want to know about the limits because they're a little mature for this review.

As read, you'll learn how Ana copes with her "inner goddess" and subconsciousness when dealing with her push-pull feelings for Christian. Plus, you'll decide if you are on Team Ana or Team Christian. I've read the other two books "Fifty Shades Darker" and "Fifty Shades Freed" and highly encourage everyone who reads the first book to continue with the next two. The second book delves deeper into Christian's background, and you see how Ana eventually gets on top (no pun intended) of the relationship that she wants to build with Christian. The final book has a surprise at the end that will leave readers feeling like they just received a little treat from E.L. James.